

## 2004 BIG ROCHE A CRI LAKE SNAPSHOT



An aquatic plant survey was conducted during the summer of 2004. A native plant, *Ceratophyllum demersum* (coontail), was the dominant plant, with *Vallisneria americana* (water celery), also a native a close second. The invasive *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian water milfoil) comprised about 13.5% of the aquatic plant community (first found in 2003). Another invasive, *Potamogeton crispus* (Curly-Leaf Pondweed) was found at low frequency & density.

Aquatic plants were found to a depth of 13 feet. Although the aquatic plant community had good species diversity, the overall quality was below the average for the state and region and most of the plants found are known to tolerate significant disturbance.

In 2004, regular water testing started. Average summer water clarity was 7.1 feet (good).

Average summer water temperature was 68.3 degrees Fahrenheit.

Average total phosphorus level in the summer of 2004 was 36.3 micrograms/liter. Levels over 30 micrograms/liter are more likely to result in excess aquatic plant growth.

Average chlorophyll-a level in 2004 was 5.4 micrograms/liter, a fairly low level for a man-made lake like Big Roche a Cri.

Field work for determining critical habitat areas on the lake was performed in September 2004.

28 aquatic plant species were found in 2004, including 7 emergents, 3 free-floating species, 1 rooted floating-leaf type and 14 submergent species.

Aquatic plants covered 88.3% of Big Roche a Cri Lake in 2004.